these meters. Third party independent inspection of the new electronic meters was done by Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), Central Power Research Institute, Bureau of Indian Standards and Special Teams constituted by the Government of NCT of Delhi under the supervision of area Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM). No problem has been found in the internal wiring of the meters. In the meter testing drive carried out by Govt. of NCT of Delhi under the supervision of area SDM, the representatives of Distribution Companies (DISCOMS) were also asked to advise Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs)/Consumers, wherever necessary about the problems arising out of earth leakage, defective wiring, interconnection of neutral, etc.

In some cases, wiring of the consumer has been found to be defective which is the responsibility of the consumer.

DERC had issued a public notice on 01.08.2005 which advised the consumers to get their internal wiring checked in case the meter gives an indication of earth leakage. Separately, on 28.10.2005 the Commission issued directions to the DISCOMS to carry out drives under the supervision of the Divisional Managers to educate consumers on the subject of earth leakage/common neutral wire. The DISCOMS have also been directed to check for this problem whenever meters are replaced.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the above.

Electrification of remote villages by NTPC

88. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has taken up electrification of remote villages as a part of the PM's mission "Rural Electricity Supply Technology" based on renewable energy resources in different States;

(b) if so, the details of this novel project; and

(c) what is the position of Orissa State and by when this State would also be covered under this project to light up the sparsely located tribal villages in the remote areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is setting up Distributed Generation

(DDG) Projects at remote un-electrified villages in the vicinity of its existing power stations with an objective of demonstrating a sustainable business model for such projects through participation of the local community and use of locally available renewable energy sources.

NTPC is encouraging & motivating the local community and also carrying out their training and capacity building to enable them to independently manage the plant and look after its operation, maintenance, revenue collection etc. for running it in a techno-commercially viable manner.

Two such DG Projects one at village Jemara, Distt. Korba in Chhattisgarh with biomas (woody) for 100 households and another at village Jaraha-Chetwa, Distt. Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh for 200 households with Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) have been Successfully commissioned/electrified during 2004-05. Another 14 DG Projects are in the various stages of DPR preparation. All these projects are being funded through grants from Government of India.

(c) In the State of Orissa, NTPC is in the process of identifying un-electrified villages in Distt. Angul in the vicinity of its thermal power station at Talcher. It is proposed to initially shortlist about 4 to 5 villages for detailed feasibility and preparation of DPR.

Projects under APDRP in Rajasthan

89. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects under APDRP sanctioned for Rajasthan and the amount of Government component for these schemes for the last three years, and up to date for 2005-06;

(b) the amounts released so far project-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether a request from Government of Rajasthan, for granting special status of Rajasthan, like N.E. States, in view of its geographical handicaps, is pending consideration with the Ministry; and

(d) if so, by when a decision would be taken?